

<b>TITLE: RELEASE PREPARATION</b>	<b>POLICY #: 28</b>
Department: Program/Services	Effective Date: 06/25/01
	Applicable Standards:
	3-JCRF-5H-01, 02, 03, 06, 07
<b>Revisions: 7-30-03; 4-4-04; 8-15-04; 12-28-07; 12-31-12</b>	

Policy: All residents at McCrossan Boys Ranch are provided access to a program of release preparation prior to their discharge from the Ranch and return back to their home community.

Definitions: N/A

Procedures:

1. Written Review of Progress

Daily feedback to the resident is done through sharing individual progress on the daily point and level sheets that will be maintained in the respective living unit for each resident. The resident will have access to these reports to gauge relative progress and will be maintained as a part of the resident's working file. Counseling staff or the Unit Manager will be available to interpret, clarify and explain the point and level system and the consequences for both positive and negative behavior and how it affects eventual discharge, home visits schedules, etc.

2. Temporary and Graduated Release

Preparation for return to the resident's home community will be one of the primary activities of the Ranch program and clinical staff. Each resident will be given gradual increased responsibility in the community prior to release, gauged by their ability to accept responsibility and display appropriate behavior. Contact with family members in the first week after admission will be limited. Over time and with the concurrence of referral workers and family members, the resident will have the opportunity to participate in a gradual program of on-Ranch visits, off-Ranch visits and home visits. Home visits will be arranged through the resident's referral worker. Ranch staff may also assist in providing transportation to and from the home visit resource as deemed necessary and appropriate.

3. Community Activities

Each resident will have the opportunity to participate in off-Ranch activities or field trips based upon the behavioral level earned by the individual resident. This may include school field trips, off-Ranch work activities, and community service work, treat runs, FCA activities, etc. One of the ultimate objectives of the Ranch program is the reintegration into community life with each individual, including the strengthening of relationships with relatives, friends, and employers. This process will begin immediately after admission to the Ranch program and will be maintained until the time of discharge. Graduated release that emphasizes decreasing levels of supervision and increasing levels of individual responsibility on the part of each resident is a recognized component of the Ranch program and is integrated into the behavior management program.

4. Home Visits

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Home visits will provide program staff and the resident with an opportunity to evaluate progress and provide a basis for making the final placement decision. To the extent possible, each resident will be transitioned back to their home whenever possible and appropriate.

5. Final Discharge/Discharge Criteria

Prior to discharge, collateral contacts will be made by Ranch staff to the releasing authority to ascertain whether the resident has made significant progress in meeting the discharge criteria specified in the McCrossan Boys Ranch Resident Handbook to earn discharge from the Ranch program. Any concerned party, including McCrossan Boys Ranch staff, parents/guardians and placing agents may petition the releasing authority of circumstances that could affect his tentative discharge date. The resident and his parents/guardians (if applicable) will be notified and counseled on discharge planning and criteria for discharge. A discharge conference will be held in conjunction with the juvenile's discharge. This meeting is held to assess the child's progress in addressing his treatment goals and approaches to evaluate the feasibility of the post-discharge option. Aftercare or follow-up services may be provided to assist the juvenile in making the discharge adjustment home or to another suitable placement.

6. Unsuccessful Discharge

Before discharging a resident who has not reached his case plan goals, McCrossan Boys Ranch will confer with the resident's placing agent, family and other interested parties to review the issues involved in the decision. A review will determine if any additional strategies can be developed that would allow a resident to continue and succeed in his treatment at the Ranch. The review process will not exceed five working days. If the review indicates that the resident's discharge is warranted, the reasons for it and all alternatives considered will be documented. This process only applies if McCrossan Boys Ranch is initiating the discharge.